United Nations

A/61/181

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2006

Original: English

Sixty-first session
Items 46, 52 (b), 54 (e) and 55 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Globalization and interdependence: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 24 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué of the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated 20 July 2006, regarding the statement on global energy security adopted at the Group of Eight Summit, held from 15 to 17 July 2006 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly under items 46, 52 (b), 54 (e) and 55 (b) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/61/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Communiqué from the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan welcomes the statement on global energy issues adopted at the Group of Eight Summit, held from 15 to 17 July 2006 in Saint Petersburg.

The plan of action on global energy security contained in this document is a constructive and important mechanism, a kind of strategic programme that addresses many issues in the field of global energy security. The provisions on effective market access, diversification of energy supply and demand, energy sources, transportation routes and means of transport, and deployment and transfer of clean energy technologies are especially important. Azerbaijan especially welcomes the commitment by the Group of Eight countries to ensure sufficient, reliable and environmentally responsible supplies of energy, which is of critical importance for improving the quality of life of the peoples of the world's countries.

Azerbaijan fully agrees with the members of the Group of Eight that, against a background of growing interdependence, strengthened partnership is required between all stakeholders. In this connection, Azerbaijan emphasizes the importance of the exceptional success achieved in increasing production of hydrocarbons in the Caspian Sea and in establishing a world-class hydrocarbon extraction and production system and transport infrastructure, including the Heydar Aliyev Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline. The discussion of energy security issues at the Summit took place virtually simultaneously with the official opening of the pipeline, which will play a strategic role in the development of Caspian oil resources and in their efficient transportation to world markets along the East-West energy corridor, as well as establishing a solid foundation for economic growth, regional stability and international energy security. Azerbaijan is committed to further strengthening and expanding the East-West energy corridor and, along with its partners, is looking forward to the successful completion of the South Caucasus gas pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum); the opening in the near future of the Baku-Tbilisi-Akhalkalaki-Kars railway will create additional possibilities for transporting energy on this route.

Azerbaijan supports the joint efforts to which the statement by the Group of Eight countries bears witness and will make its contribution to enhancing global energy security through actions to increase the transparency, predictability and stability of global energy markets, improve the investment climate in the energy sector, ensure the physical security of critical energy infrastructure and address climate change and sustainable development.